

# An Introduction to Community Advisory Groups

Community Involvement in Superfund Sites



# Presentation Outline



1. Introductions
2. Superfund
3. What is a Community Advisory Group (CAG)
4. Benefits of a CAG
5. Forming a CAG
6. Operating a CAG
7. Examples of CAGs
8. Funding and Assistance

# Introductions

- Name
- Organization / Resident
- Favorite Pastime
- One thing you want to get out of this session

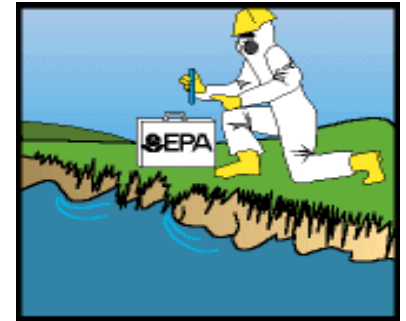
- Nefertiti DiCosmo
- EPA
- Party Games
- I want you to get a general idea about how to form a CAG

# Community Advisory Group Informational Meeting



- Introduce CAGs
- Answer questions about CAGs
- Identify potential CAG members

# What is Superfund?



- Program established in 1980 under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability act (CERCLA)
- Superfund cleans up hazardous waste sites in the United States.
- Responsible parties clean up or EPA uses funds appropriated from congress
- **General Process**
  - Notification → NPL → Investigation → Remedy Decision → Cleanup → Monitor → 5 year reviews



What is a CAG?

# What is a CAG?



- An organized group made up of members of the community
- Serve as the focal point for the exchange of information among the local community and EPA, the State, and other agencies involved in cleanup of the Superfund site

# CAG Basics



- Informal group
- Not a decision-making body
- Can give recommendations on cleanup decisions
- Typically represents the full range of local interests and viewpoints





# What Can CAGs Do?

# Things CAGs Can Do



- Hold regular meetings
- Review technical information about site cleanup
- Meet with EPA and other interested people and groups to share information and solve problems
- Relay community views and concerns related to the site
- Host educational meeting for the public or organize awareness activities



# Benefits of CAGs

# Benefits of CAGs



- Community-led group
- Involve and inform the community about superfund sites.
- Central point of contact for information sharing between EPA and the community
- Generally results in better, more informed decisions about site cleanup



# Forming a CAG

# Steps for Forming a CAG

1. Establish membership
2. Agree on operating procedures and ground rules
3. Select leadership
4. Organize, manage and run meetings



# Establishing CAG Membership



- EPA does not select the CAG members
- If there are too many applicants then a panel will choose the membership
  - Community selects a screening panel
  - The panel will consist of community members who will not be on the CAG
  - Screening Panel –sign up sheet

# CAG Membership



- Residents/owners of property near the site
- Local medical professionals
- Minority and low-income groups
- Environmental or public interest groups
- Local government representatives
- Facility owners
- Local business community members



# Membership Criteria

- CAG membership is voluntary
- Members should be willing to **commit** to attending regular CAG meetings
- Members should be willing to work with, and respect the views and opinions of others



# Operating a CAG

# Operating Procedures and Leadership

## **Operating procedures outline the CAG:**

- Mission statement, goals and objectives
- Membership and meeting requirements
- Decision making approach



# Mission and Meetings

- Create a mission statement about the goals and objectives of the CAG

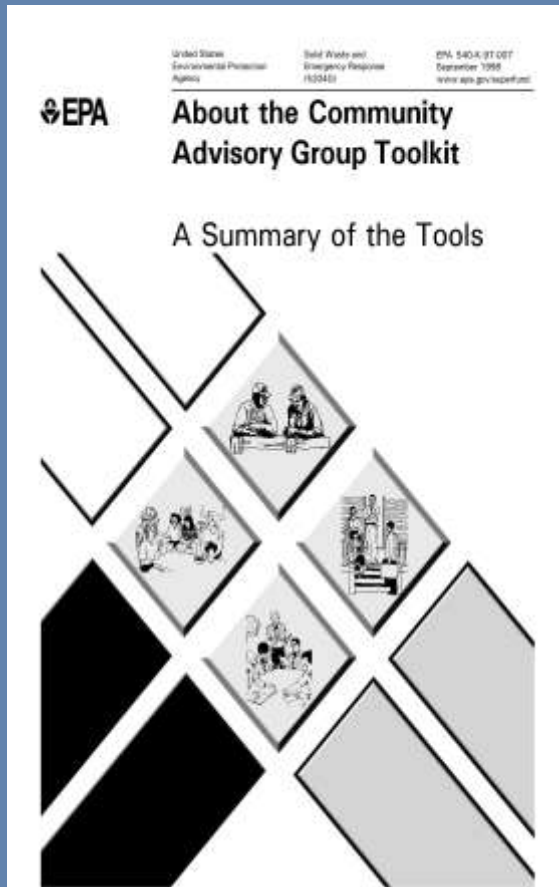
**Example :** *“The CAG shall assist in broad public awareness and input and give advice and recommendations to EPA and related organizations...”*

- Choose a name for the CAG
- Organize, manage and run meetings
- Operating procedures include membership and meeting requirements and the CAGs approach to making decisions



# CAG Toolkit

# What is a CAG Toolkit?



<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag/pdfs/cagtlktc.pdf>



- A guidance document to help community form a CAG
  - How to form a CAG
  - Writing a Mission Statement
  - Developing Operating Procedures
  - Roles and Responsibilities for CAGs
  - Finding funding for the CAG
- EPA is currently updating the CAG tool kit and will provide the potential CAG members with it at the next meeting
- Handout – very brief summary of the CAG guidance



# Examples of CAGs

# CAG WebPages

Protect Gainesville  
Citizens

## Protect Gainesville's Citizens

Improving the flow and accuracy of information regarding the Cabot Koppers Superfund site.

 Search



[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Account](#)

[Call to Artists](#)

[Our Art](#)

[Our Science](#)

[Protected Content](#)

[Register](#)

[Our Links](#)

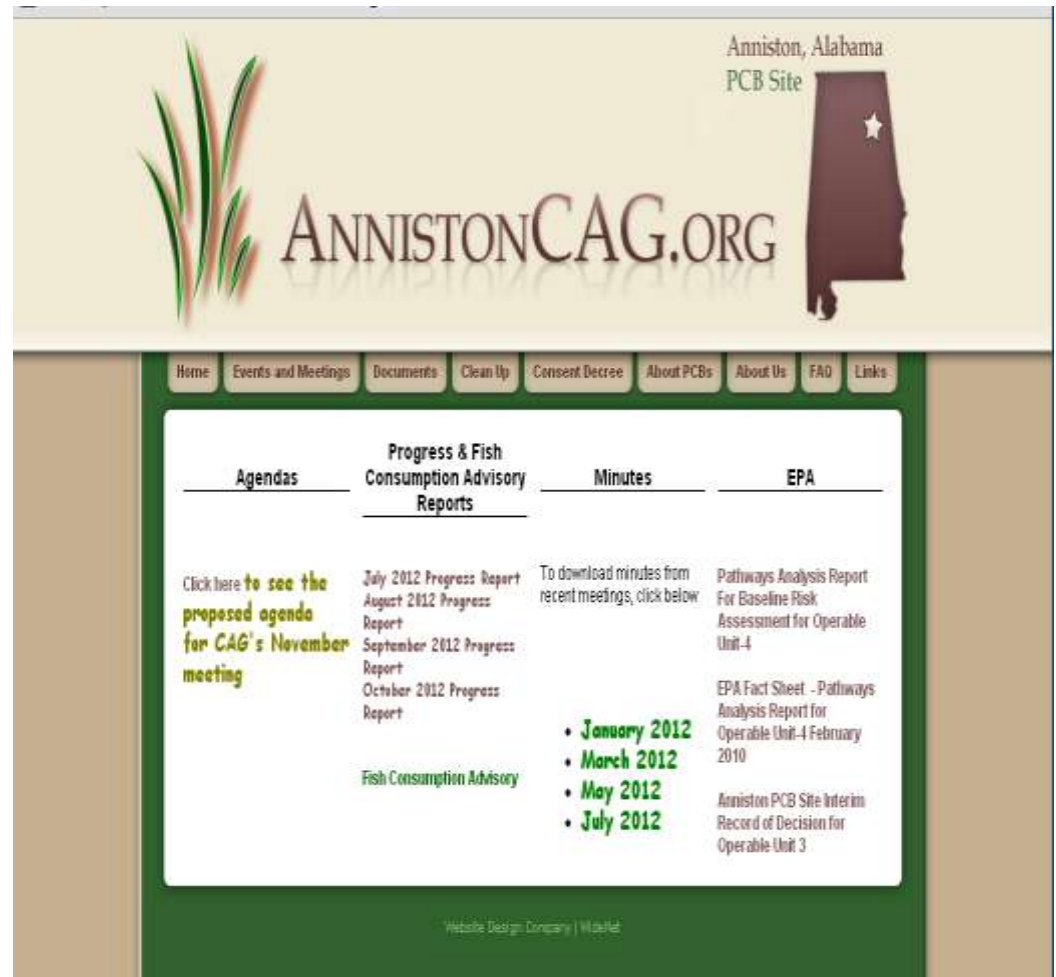
[Donate](#)

[What's Next?](#)



# CAG WebPages

Anniston CAG for Consent Decree



# CAG WebPages

Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group



# Mission Statement



## Our Vision

- The vision of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group (CAG) is:
  - to ensure the expedient development and implementation of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern (AOC) that fulfills the terms of the Great lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Critical Programs Act.
  - to foster among the public a sense of responsibility for restoring and maintaining the ecological integrity of the Waukegan Harbor AOC; and.....





## Mission Statement



- “The CAG-CD is **comprised of area residents nominated and selected to further public participation in the various remediation and clean-up plans .....** The CAG-CD **provides a forum for the exchange of information between the citizens of the affected areas**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) .....”
- <http://annistoncag.org/>

# Protect Gainesville's Citizens



## Mission Statement

“...to provide Gainesville Area citizens with accurate and comprehensible information about the C/K Superfund site. Through analytical [research](#), outreach education, and community participation, Gainesville citizens will have an active voice in the C/K Superfund site cleanup process.”

### Board of Directors:

President, Kim A. Popejoy; Secretary/Treasurer, Kate Ellison; [Member](#), Robert Pearce; [Member](#), Pat Cline

### Mission:

Protect Gainesville's Citizens, Inc. (PGC) mission is to provide Gainesville Area citizens with accurate and comprehensible information about the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site. Through analytical [research](#), outreach education, and community participation, Gainesville citizens will have an active voice in the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site cleanup process.

### Strategic Goals:

Having achieved our first goal of securing the Environmental Protection Agencies [Technical Assistance Grant](#), we have contracted with independent technical advisors to interpret and help the community understand technical information about the Cabot/Koppers site.

PGC has applied for two additional grants. Through our [Superfund Art Project](#), we are seeking a grant through the State of Florida's Department of Cultural Affairs. This grant will help us to host a travelling [art exhibit](#) expressing the science and emotions of living with a superfund site. PGC has also applied for an EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant. The awarding of this [research](#) and outreach grant will allow our



# CAG Operating Procedures

Carolawn Site in South Carolina

## Carolawn Community Advisory Board

“ The duration of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) will be **three years**, with renewal every three years unless majority votes to discontinue. The CAB will meet **no less than once every three months**. The board will consist of **15 members**. Any member that misses two consecutive meetings will be replaced. Members will serve for **a term** of three years.”

# CAG sponsored Community Activity

Superfund Art Project sponsored by  
the Protect Gainesville Citizens Group

## Superfund Art Project



Our mission is to use all forms of art to express the science and emotions associated with a toxic Superfund site. Through exhibits and performances we will educate and engage the broadest possible community in the healing, [redevelopment](#) and remembrance of the Koppers Superfund site.

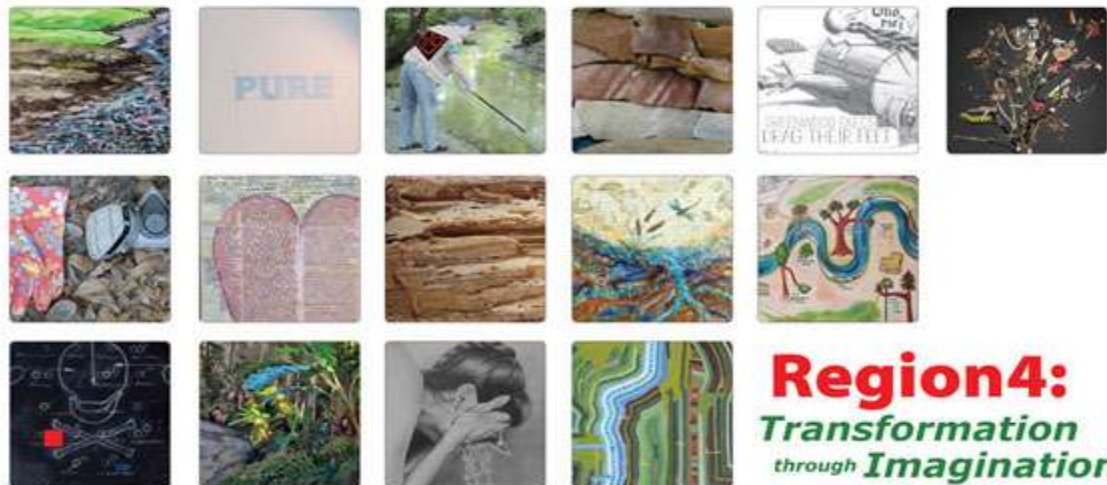
[Superfund Art Project](#) [SAP] envisions citizens and government working together, using art and science to inform our community, healing and transforming the Koppers Superfund Site.

**For more information about SAP's activities please see:**

[SAP'S BLOG](#)

[MINUTES OF OUR MEETINGS](#)

LAST SPRING, WILD IRIS BOOKS HOSTED AN EXHIBITION OF STUDENT WORKS FROM THE



## CAG sponsored Community Activity



## Fish Consumption Advisory Art Contest

- Waukegan Public Schools, EPA, and the City of Waukegan sponsored a fish consumption advisory art contest.
- Winners had their art posted as signs near the Harbor
- Official Awards Ceremony with the sponsors, winners, runners up, and the families.







# Technical Assistance Services For Communities

## What is TASC?



- Provides independent educational and technical assistance to communities
- Helps communities better understand and become involved in the cleanup process for hazardous waste sites.

## How can TASC help my community?

- Help form the Community Advisory Group
- Increase community understanding of technical issues
- Help engage community in the protection and restoration of their neighborhoods
- Engage diverse groups



## How can my community get TASC?



1. Contact EPA TASC Representative – Patricia Krause
2. Submit a request (via email or letter) for TASC services
3. Begin work once assistance is approved
4. The entire process takes approximately 6 to 8 weeks on average.



# Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs)

# What is a TAG?



## Technical Assistance Grants (TAG)

- Federal Grant
- Grant up to \$50,000 is available

# TAG Grant Process



How to Apply for a TAG?

- Letter of Intent
- Submit Application
- Review and Decision

# Do's and Don'ts

See fact sheet for more information



- CAG must be a non-profit organization
- Recipients must be members of the affected community
- Funds uses and restrictions
- Potential Responsible Party (PRP) or Affiliates are not eligible
- Elected officials are not allowed on the CAG board



What is the difference between TASC and TAG assistance?

TASC	TAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Short-Term</li><li>•EPA non-partial contractor</li><li>•Simple Application</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Long-term</li><li>• CAG selects Advisor</li><li>•Complex application</li></ul>

•Yes, CAGs can use both TASC and TAG.



# For More Information on CAGs, TASC, & TAGs

- Community Advisory Groups (CAGs)  
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag/>
- EPA Superfund Community Resources  
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/resources.htm>
- CAG Resources, including link to EPA CAG toolkit  
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag/resource.htm>
- EPA Technical Assistance Services for Communities Program  
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc/>
- Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) Fact Sheet  
[http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag/download/quick-fs\\_8-12-08.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag/download/quick-fs_8-12-08.pdf)



# Points of Contact

- EPA's community involvement efforts at the Fridley Superfund Site
  - Nefertiti DiCosmo
  - [dicosmo.nefertiti@epa.gov](mailto:dicosmo.nefertiti@epa.gov)
  - (312) 886-6148
- EPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities Program
  - Patty Krause
  - [krause.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:krause.patricia@epa.gov)
  - (312) 886-9506
- EPA's TAG Coordinator:
  - Susan Pastor
  - [pastor.susan@epa.gov](mailto:pastor.susan@epa.gov)
  - (312) 353-353-1325 or 800-621-8431 ext. 31325